



Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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December 19, 2023

TO: Doug O'Brien  
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SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)  
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  
Retailer Policy Division  
Retailer Policy Branch

Response to Comments:  
60-Day Federal Register Notice Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Retailer  
Applications  
Docket: FNS-2023-0054  
Comment Period End Date November 28, 2023

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Thank you for your comments submitted via Regulations.gov on November 28, 2023, regarding the Federal Register Notice requesting comments on the proposed information collection for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Store Applications, published September 29, 2023.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) appreciates your comments about the proposed information collection regarding the practical utility of the information collected, especially from owners. In your comments, you explain that cooperatives are owned by large numbers of member-owners, who are not directly responsible for the operations of the business but elect a board of directors who hires a general manager or chief executive officer (CEO).

We agree that it would be impractical and unnecessary for cooperatives to submit information including name, home address, social security number, for each of perhaps thousands of member-owners of a cooperative business. However, authorization as a SNAP retailer requires that FNS have information on record for the individuals who are legally responsible for the business (7 USC 2018 (a)(1)(B)(v), 7 CFR 278.1(o), 7 CFR 278.6(f)(3)). In the case of cooperatives, this responsibility is held by the board of directors and any other officer such as a CEO.

Doug O'Brien  
Page 2

Therefore, in FNS-252 and the corresponding questions in other forms, these individuals are required to respond to question 14, and the response to question 15 must answer for them and any managers.

FNS wishes to clarify that it considers changes in the composition of the board of directors or turnover in other officer positions to be a change in who is responsible for the operation of the business. Therefore, a cooperative should contact FNS to notify it of such a change. FNS will provide any forms needed and instruct the cooperative as to how to supply any information needed to maintain its authorization.

FNS also wishes to note that a "private nonprofit cooperative food purchasing venture" is a specific retailer type accorded certain exceptions by statute (7 USC 2012(o)(4) and 7 USC 2019). Therefore, question 11 is meant to specifically identify them separately from food cooperatives generally. Revising it to include a response option for cooperatives would conflate for-profit and non-profit cooperatives, and prevent FNS from identifying private nonprofit cooperative food purchasing ventures.

Thank you again for your comments.

Regards,

Andrea Gold, Division Director  
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service  
SNAP, Retailer Policy Division